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Never Talked to Wylie Of Money, Godel Says

By JERRY KLINE
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William H. Godel testified yesterday that he never discussed personal financial affairs with John A. Wylie, with whom he is accused of conspiring to embezzle government funds.

Aside from business matters "we were not extensively associated with each other," he said in Alexandria Federal District Court.

In reply to questions by his attorney, E. Waller Dudley Godel said: "I've never discussed my personal financial affairs with anyone except my wife."

The crew-cut defendant speaking in a hoarse voice appeared relaxed during four hours of testimony. Asked if he had embezzled any money, he said: "No, sir, I have never knowingly taken any of the government money except for official purposes."

Godel, 43, a former \$20,000-a-year Defense Department official, is charged with misap-

propriating about \$13,000. Wylie, 58, former \$17,500-a-year head of the Defense Department's budget and finance branch, is accused of taking about \$40,000.

First Defense Witness

Godel was the first witness for the defense since the government rested its case Thursday. Under questioning by his attorney and during cross-examination by Plato Cacheris, first assistant U. S. Attorney, Godel insisted he spent the government funds for official purposes.

About \$5,000 of the money, which the government claims he misappropriated in connection with a Viet Nam assignment, was his own, he said. He took the money from personal funds in his office safe, he said.

Asked why he kept so much cash in hand, he said: "I suppose it is just an idiosyncrasy of mine." The money was part of \$13,500 which he took to Saigon in 1961 to set up a secret research project, he said.

Cacheris asked whether the total was unusually large for the trip.

"It was quite unusual," Godel said.

Godel submitted in his defense commendations and letters of congratulation or appreciation when it was built in 1956. He dating back over a dozen years. The commendations came from Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara and the National Civil Service League. The letters were signed by the late President Kennedy, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, Ambassador Maxwell D. Taylor and Adm. Richard E. Byrd.

Explains Statements

Cacheris questioned Godel about statements he gave to the FBI and other investigators and charged that discrepancies existed between the statements and his testimony.

Godel said he had confused various Viet Nam trips when questioned about them. He also said that since he was questioned about one of the trips, "I have been able to reconstruct the event."

Godel said he and his wife and five daughters "have a comfortable home" that cost \$47,000 when it was built in 1956. He said: "We have never been members of a country club. . . . My family and I have always sought to live entirely within my earned salary, and we have done so."

The cross examination by the government will continue Monday.

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